



BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

NYS OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION
& HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ED VISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
(518) 474-0479

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

UNIQUE SITE NO. _____
QUAD _____
SERIES _____
NEG. NO. _____

YOUR NAME Cynthia Howk DATE: Dec., 1994
133 S. Fitzhugh St.
YOUR ADDRESS: Rochester, NY 14608 TELEPHONE: _____
ORGANIZATION (if any): The Landmark Society of Western New York, Inc.

IDENTIFICATION Greece Historical Society
1. BUILDING NAME(S): (Larkin-Haller-Beattie-Howe House)
2. COUNTY: Monroe OWN/CITY: Greece VILLAGE: ---
3. STREET LOCATION: 595 Long Pond Road
4. OWNERSHIP: a. public ☒ b. private ☐ 2505 W. Ridge Rd.
5. PRESENT OWNER: Town of Greece ADDRESS: Rochester, NY 14626
6. USE: Original: residence Present: museum/offices
7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes ☒ No ☐
Interior accessible: Explain open to public on limited

DESCRIPTION
8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard ☒ b. stone ☒ c. brick ☐ d. board and batten ☐
e. cobblestone ☐ f. shingles ☐ g. stucco ☐ other: _____
Roof = asphalt shingles. Foundation = concrete block
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: a. wood frame with interlocking joints ☐
(if known) b. wood frame with light members ☒
c. masonry load bearing walls ☐
d. metal (explain) _____
e. other _____
10. CONDITION: a. excellent ☒ b. good ☐ c. fair ☐ d. deteriorated ☐
11. INTEGRITY: a. original site ☐ b. moved ☒ if so, when? 1924-1930s; 1988.
c. list major alterations and dates (if known): _____

(see continuation sheet)

12. PHOTO:

13. MAP:

"This house is obviously big and has some commanding presence. It's a 'green plus.' " P.Malo.

COLOR CODE

Green plus



14. THREATS TO BUILDING: a. none known ☒ b. zoning ☐ c. roads ☐
d. developers ☐ e. deterioration ☐
f. other: _____
15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY:
a. barn ☐ b. carriage house ☐ c. garage ☐
d. privy ☐ e. shed ☐ f. greenhouse ☐
g. shop ☐ h. gardens ☐ j. paved parking lot to S.
i. landscape features: young deciduous trees/shrubs
j. other: wood frame replica of lighthouse tower (small scale)
16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING (check more than one if necessary):
a. open land ☒ b. woodland ☐
c. scattered buildings ☒
d. densely built-up ☐ e. commercial ☐
f. industrial ☐ g. residential ☒
h. other: Gary Beikirch Town Park to immediate south.
17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:
(Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)

(see continuation sheet)

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):

(see continuation sheet)

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: c. 1858; enlarged after 1924.
- ARCHITECT: not determined
- BUILDER: not determined
20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

(see continuation sheet)

21. SOURCES: (see continuation sheet)

22. THEME: agricultural: former farm residence.

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11c.

In September, 1988, the house was moved to this site from its previous location on the southwest corner of Long Pond and Latta Roads. This represented the second major move for this residence. At the Long Pond/Latta location, this house was originally situated close to the roadway in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Circa 1924-30s, it was moved back from Latta Road (south and west) and expanded in size (after the 1924 map). A historic photo on display in the house shows the original home before its enlargement and first relocation.

Circa 1924-30s, the original front-gable-and-side-wing plan house was moved southwest on the Latta/Long Pond site and expanded with a two-and-one-half-story, gabled addition (present north section), nearly doubling its previous size. During that remodeling, the following features were added to the original house: a shed-roofed window bay on the facade (which replaced a smaller, angled, late-19th-century window bay) and a shed-roofed front porch (which replaced the smaller porch with square, chamfered Italianate wood columns). The interior was likewise expanded with new room configurations, a new main staircase, narrow-board, hardwood floors and additional bedrooms.

In 1992, a two-story, 25-foot by 60-foot, gable-roofed north wing of frame construction was added onto the existing house. The Greece Historical Society plans to use the wing for exhibition and meeting space (the interior is not yet completed).

17. This house is located on a 40.5-acre lot on the west side of Long Pond Road in the northwest quadrant of the town. Surrounded by extensive lawns, the house faces east and has a deep set-back from the road. A driveway is located to the south of the house and leads to a non-contributing, contemporary parking lot (c. 1988-89). At the west end of the parking lot is a non-contributing, contemporary, small-scale, frame replica of the Charlotte Lighthouse (c. 1980s-90s). The house is set on a large, town-owned parcel that includes the Gary Beikirch Town Park, with playing fields, to the south. To the northwest is a c. 1980s housing tract. Across the street to the east are mostly c. 1960s-80s houses. The historic Lowden House and property are located to the southeast, on the east side of Long Pond Road.

18. The Larkin-Haller-Beattie-Howe House is an example of a vernacular, mid-19th century farmhouse that has been moved twice (c. 1924-30s, 1988) and greatly expanded twice (c. 1924-30s, 1992). A historic photograph shows that the house originally began as a two-and-one-half-story, front-gable-and-side-wing plan farmhouse. This is the present south half of the building. The original residence was moved back from the roadway (Latta & Long Pond Roads), c. 1924-30s and greatly expanded into its present form (without the 1992 north wing). This double, front-gabled form is of frame construction on a 1988 concrete block foundation. The exterior walls are clad in wood clapboard.

The form of the historic house consists of a rectangular plan. The southern part, dating from the mid-19th century, consists of two-and-one-half-story, front-gable and side wing plan. The northern part, added c. 1924-30s, consists of a cross-gabled, two-and-one-half-story, rectangular block. This c. 1924-30s section, similar in design to the earlier south half, is slightly narrower and not as deep as the 19th-century, southern part of the house. Fenestration throughout the house is generally repetitive and symmetrical. Window types include 1/1 and 6/6, double-hung, wood sash. Three large exterior windows were added during the c. 1924-30s expansion/renovation: two large, shed-roofed, box window bays with multiple pane windows on the facade and a large, multi-paned staircase window on the second story of the west elevation. Pointed-arched windows are located in the north, west and east gables. The louvered wood shutters appear to date from the 19th- or early-20th centuries.

Other exterior details that date from the c. 1924-30s expansion/renovation include: the shed-roofed front porch with square posts and wood railing, the distinctive brick chimney with large stone inset (1st story) on the south elevation, and the small, brick chimney near the north gable end. The 19th-century, south section of the house had open, first- and second-story porches, that extended across the west (rear) elevation and part of the south elevation. To protect them from further damage by rain, etc., the porches were enclosed with 1/1, double-hung, windows and wood clapboard during the 1988-92 renovation. It is evident where the new clapboards and triple windows have been added onto the south elevation; there is a vertical cornerboard that separates the new and old in the clapboards (to the right of the triple windows).

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The 1992 north wing is a two-story, gable-roofed, rectangular-plan building with wood clapboard siding. Much of the detailing on the north wing is based on design features found on the attached historic house: the shed-roofed, open porch (on the south elevation), the pointed-arched gable windows, the gabled north and south dormers, and the shed-roofed, box window bay on the facade.

The present interior of the house dates to the c. 1924-30s renovation, when the original farmhouse was greatly enlarged. Flooring throughout is the narrow-hardwood flooring characteristic of the Rochester area. The living room includes a wood fireplace mantel (and brick/stone chimney) installed at that time. The present wood, Colonial Revival-style mantel is a replica of the mantel installed by Gordon Howe. When Howe sold the house in 1965, he removed this Colonial Revival mantel & took it with him. The present mantel was created by a member of the Greece Historical Society, who based its design on a photograph of the previous mantel. A new main staircase (the house has two staircases) and large, staircase landing window with multiple panes were also added. The number of bedrooms was increased. The Gordon Howes added the interior entry hall arches and the modern kitchen cabinets (c. 1940s-50s).

Now the home of the Greece Historical Society and its museum, the interior of the historic house is used for exhibit space on the first floor, while the second floor is used for work space, artifact/records storage, and the Town Historian's Office. The interior of the 1992 north wing remains unfinished; it will be completed when additional funds become available.

20. The Larkin-Haller-Beattie-Howe House is historically significant for its associations with several 19th- and early 20th-century Greece residents, but particularly for its association with Gordon A. Howe, who owned this property from 1941 -1965. A political legend in Monroe County, Howe served as Greece Town justice, then town supervisor from 1930-1960, and, finally, Monroe County Manager in the 1960s. The house is architecturally significant as a distinctive example of a mid 19th-century, vernacular farmhouse that was greatly expanded in the early 20th century. The house retains a high degree of integrity of historic design and materials. However, it lost its integrity of setting, when it was moved

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from its historic site at Long Pond and Latta Roads, to 595 Long Pond Road in 1988.

The house began c. 1852 as a simple two-and-one-half-story, front-gable-and-side-wing plan (present south half of the house). A historic photo on display at the house shows the original configuration of the home. Two corbelled chimneys topped the roofline. The front porch featured square, chamfered, Italianate columns and a first-story, angled, window bay was located on facade of the front-gable section. This ell-plan house was representative of the typical vernacular farmhouse built in Greece during the mid-19th century.

A photograph and display at the house state that the north addition was constructed in 1890. The county plat maps of 1902 & 1924, however, show the small farmhouse still on its original site near the roadway. It was not moved back from the road and expanded with a large, two-and-one-half-story, cross-gabled west addition (now the north part of the house) until circa 1924-1930s.

This new addition was designed with massing, scale, details, and materials similar to the existing farmhouse. The square, window bays, rear picture windows, brick chimney with stone base and interior details are reminiscent of the Colonial Revival style, popular in during the 1900-1930s era, when this addition was constructed.

Since the house was not moved to this site at 595 Long Pond Rd. until 1988, all earlier plat map references will refer to its original location on the southwest corner of Latta and Long Pond Roads.

The 1852 county map shows the Latta/Long Pond Road intersection; the roads are without names on the map. On the southwest corner, three small buildings are shown; one of these buildings may be the original farmhouse. No owners names are indicated.

This Latta and Long Pond Road intersection was once called "Greece Center," as it is near the geographic center of the town. On the northwest corner of Latta and Long Pond Rds. once stood the Cataract House hotel, and a cobblestone Christian Church, purchased by the Methodist congregation in 1867 and used by them until 1874 when they built a frame

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church on Maiden Lane.

The 1872 county map shows the Latta/Long Pond Rds. site as lot 23 in School District #17. A building is located near the corner and is marked, "J.Larkin" as the owner. The Larkin family operated the Larkin Hotel on Latta Road, just east of the four corners in the North Greece hamlet.

The 1902 county map shows the Latta/Long Pond intersection, which has acquired a number of buildings during the previous 30 years. The original location of this farmhouse, the southwest corner, shows a 54.14-acre parcel owned by Gustave A. Haller. This farmhouse appears to be the small building located at the northeast corner of the lot (directly adjacent to the roadway). No other buildings are shown on the parcel. The southeast corner of Latta/Long Pond has a building marked, "Hotel." To the northeast of the hotel, across the street, is a building marked, "School." The northwest corner of Latta/Long Pond Rds., has two small buildings owned by "G.A. Haller and S.S." One of these buildings is the former cobblestone Methodist Church. When that congregation moved to Maiden Lane after 1874, their cobblestone building (no longer extant) became the blacksmith and wagon shop for Gus Haller.

The 1924 county map shows the Latta/Long Pond site. Long Pond Road is named "Greece Center Road." This site is shown as a 52-acre parcel owned by F. M. Beattie. A small frame house is located on the northeast corner of the site near the roadway. To its immediate east is a small frame outbuilding (barn?). A historic photo of the house shows that the facade faced north (toward Latta Road). To the west of this property, F.M. Beattie owns an adjoining 98-acre parcel of land. The 1930 suburban directory lists Greece Center Road with its new name: Long Pond Road. The house at the Latta/Long Pond site is listed as "vacant" (no house number is given; it's just shown as "000.").

Information indicates that the house was moved back from the road and enlarged to its present appearance sometime after the 1924 map, but before the 1941 purchase of the property by Mr. and Mrs. Gordon A. Howe. Harris Lowden of 616 Long Pond Road (where he's lived since his birth in 1902) recalls the first move of this house. It was lifted off of its original foundation near Latta & Long Pond Rds., placed on oak timbers, and rolled back to its new foundation away from the

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road. He said that the owners moved the house to this new location to get away from the "noisy neighbors" at the adjacent tavern.

In 1941, Gordon A. Howe and his wife purchased this house on its Latta/Long Pond Road site. The house and 50 acres were on the market for \$10,000 when they tried to buy it. They could get only a \$8,500 mortgage, so the bank cut 25 acres off the property and his wife borrowed against her life insurance to raise the money needed to purchase the home/site.

The 1959 county map shows the house, now moved south and west from its original location next to Latta Road. It has a deep set-back from the road and a new, expanded "footprint" - a large, U-shaped configuration, showing the c. 1924-30s addition to the west (now the northern part of the house). An attached garage is located on the west side of the house. A frame outbuilding (a barn?), shown on the 1924 map, remains to the northeast of the house, closer to the roadway. The site is shown as a 23.9-acre parcel owned by "G.A. and L.S. Howe." The north boundary of the parcel is Latta Road and the east boundary is Long Pond Road. Across the street, on the east side of Long Pond Road is an adjacent 5.74-acre parcel of land owned by "L.S. Howe."

A September, 1988 newspaper article describes the house as a "130-year-old farmhouse" owned from 1941 to 1965 by Gordon A. Howe and his wife. The article continues: "Local historians said the oldest part of the house was moved sometime around the turn of the century by residents wanting to put some distance between it and a noisy nearby tavern." (this "turn of the century" date appears to be incorrect; information on the county maps puts the date of the first move after 1924). In his many years as a leading political figure, Gordon Howe hosted hundreds of party members at backyard picnics and receptions at the Latta/Long Pond Rd. site. The property is said to have had beautiful flowers all around a big patio and a large vegetable garden.

In 1965, the property was purchased by Wegman's, who planned to use the site for one of their supermarket complexes. The 25-acre property laid dormant until the late 1980s, when efforts to save the house from demolition were initiated. Members of the Greece Historical Society provided the leadership and support for this major community effort.

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On September 9, 1988, the house was moved from its historic Latta/Long Pond site, north to the west side of Long Pond Road. Wegman's paid \$26,000 to Matthews Movers to transport the house to 595 Long Pond Road, property owned by the town of Greece and adjacent to Beikirch Park. The Historical Society provided another \$2,500 to pay for additional moving costs (moving the power lines, etc.). From 1988-1992, the house was renovated for use as the headquarters and museum of the Greece Historical Society. The Greece Town Historian's Office was also relocated here. The new north wing for exhibits and meeting space was built in 1992, funded, in part, by a grant from the state (the final payment of this grant was made in July, 1992).

21. See final report for bibliography; site visits; telephone interviews with Virginia Tomkiewicz, Arthur and Lorraine Beane.

